

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ASUSTEK COMPUTER, INC.,	:
	:
Plaintiff,	:
	Case No: 08-CV-02770 (CM)
- against -	:
	<b>ANSWER AND CROSS-</b>
SHANGHAI EASTERN FUDART	<b>CLAIMS</b>
TRANSPORT SERVICES CO., LTD.,	:
CHINA EASTERN AIRLINES CO., LTD.,	:
CHINA CARGO AIRLINES, AIR CHINA,	:
DART EXPRESS (TAIWAN) LTD., ULTRA	:
AIR CARGO, INC., TRUXTON LOGISTICS	:
CORP. and LOS ANGELES EL PASO	:
EXPRESS LEE, INC.,	:
	:
Defendants.	:
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Defendant China Eastern Airlines Co., Ltd. (hereinafter "China Eastern"), by its attorneys Clyde & Co US LLP, answers plaintiff's Complaint ("Complaint") as follows:

1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraphs First through Fifth of the Complaint and leaves all questions of law for the Court.

2. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph Sixth of the Complaint to the extent they are directed toward parties other than China Eastern. Denies the allegations in paragraph Sixth of the Complaint to the extent they are directed toward China Eastern or may be construed to assert a claim against China Eastern, except admits that China Eastern is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the People's Republic of China with a place of business at 5781 West Imperial Highway, Los Angeles California, and leaves all questions of law for the Court.

3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the

allegations in paragraphs Seventh through Tenth of the Complaint and leaves all questions of law for the Court.

4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraphs Eleventh through Fifteenth of the Complaint to the extent they are directed toward parties other than China Eastern. Denies the allegations in paragraphs Eleventh through Fifteenth of the Complaint to the extent they are directed toward China Eastern or may be construed to assert a claim against China Eastern, except admits that China Eastern contracted to transport a shipment of goods from Shanghai, China to Los Angeles, California pursuant to China Eastern air waybills 781-4763-0273 and 781-4773-8154, and leaves all questions of law for the Court.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5. The Complaint fails to state a claim against China Eastern upon which relief can be granted.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

6. The transportation out of which the subject matter of this action arose was "international carriage" within the meaning of a treaty of the United States known as the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, done at Montreal on 28 May 1999, ICAO Doc. No. 9740 (entered into force November 4, 2003), *reprinted in* S. Treaty Doc. 106-45, 1999 WL 333292734 (hereinafter "Montreal Convention"), and the rights of the parties are governed exclusively by the provisions of the said Montreal Convention.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

7. Pursuant to Articles 18 and/or 20 of the Montreal Convention, China Eastern's tariffs, China Eastern's conditions of carriage as set forth in the relevant contract of carriage and/or other relevant law, China Eastern is not liable to plaintiff for the loss or damage described in the Complaint because the alleged loss or damage (a) did not occur during the period of carriage by air, and/or (b) was caused or contributed to by an inherent defect, quality or vice of the cargo, defective packaging of the cargo and/or the negligence of plaintiff, its agents, servants, or employees.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

8. The liability of China Eastern if any, is limited pursuant to Article 22 of the Montreal Convention and/or China Eastern's tariffs and conditions of carriage as set forth in the relevant contract of carriage.

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

9. Pursuant to its tariffs and conditions of carriage as set forth in the relevant contract of carriage, and/or the applicable local law, China Eastern is not liable to plaintiffs or, in the alternative, China Eastern's liability is limited.

**AS AND FOR A SIXTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

10. Plaintiff's alleged damages resulted from the acts or omissions of parties other than China Eastern and for whom China Eastern is not responsible and, therefore, China Eastern is not liable to plaintiff or, alternatively, China Eastern's liability to plaintiff is partial only and should be reduced in accordance with applicable law.

**AS AND FOR A SEVENTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11. The alleged damages complained of were not proximately caused by any negligence or culpable conduct on the part of China Eastern.

**AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12. China Eastern is not liable to plaintiff for the loss or damage described in the Complaint because the alleged loss or damage was caused or contributed to by the negligence of plaintiff or its agents, servants or employees.

**AS AND FOR A NINTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

13. Plaintiff failed to mitigate its damages, if any, and, therefore, plaintiff is barred from recovering any such damages from China Eastern.

**AS AND FOR A TENTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

14. The alleged damages were caused and brought about by an intervening and superseding cause and were not caused by China Eastern, or by a person for whom China Eastern is responsible.

**AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

15. Pursuant to the Montreal Convention and/or China Eastern's tariffs and conditions of carriage, China Eastern is not liable to plaintiff because plaintiff failed to dispatch timely written notice of claim to China Eastern of the loss or damage alleged in the Complaint.

**AS AND FOR A TWELFTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16. Pursuant to the Montreal Convention and/or China Eastern's tariffs and conditions of contract set forth in the relevant contract of carriage, plaintiff may not maintain an action against China Eastern and/or China Eastern is not liable to plaintiff for the loss described in the Complaint because the alleged loss did not occur while the cargo was in China Eastern's possession or the possession of its employees or agents.

**AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

17. Plaintiff's Complaint should be dismissed as the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York is an improper venue and/or the action should be transferred pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1404.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH  
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

18. Plaintiff's Complaint should be dismissed pursuant to the doctrine of *forum non conveniens*.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST DART EXPRESS (TAIWAN) LTD.,  
ULTRA AIR CARGO, INC., TRUXTON LOGISTICS CORP. and LOS ANGELES EL  
PASO EXPRESS LEE, INC.**

19. Any loss or damage sustained as alleged in the Complaint was caused solely by reason of the negligence of Dart Express (Taiwan) Ltd., Ultra Air Cargo, Inc., Truxton Logistics Corp., and/or Los Angeles El Paso Express Lee, Inc. (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Co-Defendants"), without any negligence or culpable conduct on the part of China Eastern contributing thereto.

20. If plaintiff obtains a judgment against China Eastern for the loss or damage alleged in the Complaint, such liability will have been brought about or caused solely by the careless,

negligent or culpable acts or omissions of Co-Defendants, their agents, servants or employees, and China Eastern therefore is entitled to full indemnity in an amount equal to the total sum of any such judgment, together with costs and disbursements of the within action.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND  
CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST CO-DEFENDANTS**

21. Any loss or damage sustained as alleged in the Complaint was caused in substantial part by reason of the negligence of Co-Defendants, without any negligence or culpable conduct on the part of China Eastern contributing thereto.

22. If plaintiff obtains a judgment against China Eastern for the loss or damage alleged in the Complaint, such liability will have been brought about and caused, in substantial part, by the careless, negligent or culpable acts or omissions of Co-Defendants, their agents, servants, or employees. China Eastern, therefore, is entitled to contribution from Co-Defendants in accordance with their relative culpability for plaintiff's injuries.

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY OF FOREIGN LAW**

23. Pursuant to Rule 44.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, China Eastern hereby gives notice that it may raise issues concerning the law of a foreign country in this matter.

WHEREFORE, China Eastern demands judgment dismissing the Complaint in its entirety or, alternatively, judgment limiting its liability pursuant to the foregoing, together with costs and disbursements. In the event a judgment is entered in favor of plaintiff and against China Eastern, said defendant demands that it have a judgment over and against Co-Defendants for the full amount for which defendant China Eastern is found to be liable to plaintiff.

Dated: New York, New York  
May 30, 2008

CLYDE & CO US LLP

By: Andrew J. Harakas / KLT  
Andrew J. Harakas (AH 3515)  
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(212) 710-3900

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China Eastern Airlines Co., Ltd.

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Los Angeles, California 90045

Dart Express (Taiwan) Ltd.  
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Xiamen, China

Ultra Air Cargo, Inc.  
555 S. Isis Avenue  
Inglewood, California 90301

Truxton Logistics Corp.  
P.O. Box 83104  
Los Angeles, California 90045

Los Angeles El Paso Express Lee, Inc.  
1700 Delta Drive  
El Paso, Texas 79901

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
                                      ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK    )

Mariana Nannarone, being duly sworn, deposes and says that deponent is not a party of this action, is over 18 years of age and resides in Brooklyn, New York. On May 30, 2008 deponent served the within **ANSWER AND CROSS-CLAIMS** upon:

Matthew T. Loesberg, Esq.  
McDermott & Radzik, LLP  
Wall Street Plaza  
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New York, New York 10005  
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Inglewood, California 90301

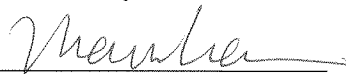
Truxton Logistics Corp.  
P.O. Box 83104  
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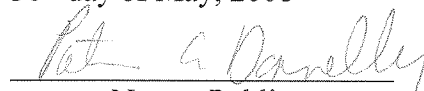
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El Paso, Texas 79901

Dart Express (Taiwan) Ltd.  
Room A & D, 20/F  
International Trade Building  
No. 388 Hubin South Road, 361004  
Xiamen, China

The address(es) designated by said attorney(s) for that purpose by depositing a true copy thereof enclosed in a post-paid properly addressed wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

  
Mariana Nannarone

Sworn to before me this  
30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008

  
Notary Public